By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for preuention of abuſes touching Gunpowder and Saltpeeter.

WHereas His Maieſtie hath beene informed, that many and great quantities of vnſeruiceable Gunpowder haue beene heeretofore, and are dayly ſtill vented within this his Kingdome, to the apparant and manifeſt danger, loſſe and preiudice of his louing Subiects, the merchants of the ſame, and all others that be occaſioned to make vſe of it, inſomuch that not onely many of their Ships with their goods and merchandiſes, but alſo their perſons (by meanes of this defective powder being very weake and bad) haue beene loſt and ſurpriſed: And his Maieſtie hath alſo beene certified, aſwell by ſome of the Lords and others of his Priuie Counſell (to whom he was pleaſed to commit the care of this ſo important a buſineſſe) as alſo by the Commiſſioners of his Naule (to whom the ſame was referred) that this inconuenience is occaſioned, partly by reaſon of importation of forreigne Gunpowder being inſufficient, partly by defective making of powder within this Realme couertly and ſecretly, and without warrant of his Maieſties Commiſſion, and eſpecially for that the ſayd defective powder, aſwell imported as made within the Realme, is put to ſale before it be duely prooued as it ought, and as all the gunpowder made for his Maieſtie is tried and prooued by a proofe-maſter aſſigned and ſworne for that purpoſe.

His moſt Excellent Maieſty (whoſe care doth euer watch ouer the Weale of his louing Subiects) taking theſe things into his Royall conſideration, is reſolued to meet with, and preuent theſe ſo imminent and perillous enormities for the time to come: And for redreſſe thereof, his Maieſtie doeth heereby ſignifie his pleaſure to all his louing Subiects and others; and his Highneſſe doeth by this his Proclamation ſtrictly charge and command, That no perſon or perſons whatſoeuer, doe at any time heereafter make, or cauſe to be made for ſeruice againſt any enemy, or for ſale, any gunpowder, within this Realme of England, or the Dominion of Wales, of any Saltpeeter made, or to bee made within the ſayd Realme or Dominion, but of ſuch Saltpeeter onely as is, or ſhalbe made by warrant of his Maieſties Commiſſion granted, or to be granted in that behalf. And that no Saltpeeterman, or maker of Saltpeeter do at any time heereafter, tranſport, or cauſe to bee tranſported into the parts beyond the Seas, or ſell, vtter, or put to ſale, or cauſe to be ſold, vttered, or put to ſale within the ſaid Realme or Dominion, any Saltpeeter made within the ſayd Realme or Dominion, but onely to his Maieſties ſtorehouſe, to his Maieſties powder-maker there. And that no perſon or perſons whatſoeuer, doe heereafter preſume to buy any Saltpeeter, made, or to bee made by vertue of his Maieſties Commiſſion, but his Maieſties Powder-maker only, to whom it ſhall not be lawfull to receiue for any powder by him to be ſold to his Maieſties Subiects aboue ten pence the pound: And that no

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gunpowder whatsoeuer, be hereafter at any time vttered, sold, or vented within this Realme or the dominion of Wales, by any person or persons whatsoeuer, before the same be tried, proued, and allowed of, by the sayd sworne proof-master, and by him marked, as heerein after is expressed, whereby all his Maiesties louing Subiects may take notice of the sorts of the sayd gunpowder, and the goodnesse thereof, and the vses to which it may the most aptly be applied.

And because much inconuenience may arise by fraud and deceit in counterfeiting the proof-masters marke, or by mingling the powder by him marked, with other decayed or insufficient stuffe, and otherwise; His Maiestie doeth further heereby charge and command, That no person or persons whatsoeuer, doe attempt or presume to counterfett any marke which shall hereafter bee vsed by the sayd sworne proof-master, to the purpose aforesayd, or doe worke, or put in practise any fraud, deceit, or sleight, by mixing or mingling any gunpowder, or otherwise, whereby his Maiesties intent and meaning before expressed, may bee altered, diuerted, or abused; Letting all his Subiects and others know, that whosoeuer shall commit any offence against this his Maiesties Proclamation, or any part thereof, or in any point infringe any prohibition or declaration of his Maiesties pleasure heerein expressed, shall not only incurre his Maiesties heauy indignation and displeasure, and be subiect to such paines, penalties, imprisonment, and punishment, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme can or may be inflicted vpon them, as breakers and contemners of his Maiesties Royall command, but also vndergoe the seuere censure of his high Court of Starre chamber for such their offences according to their demerites. And his Maiestie doeth heereby require and command, that the sayde sworne proof-master, which shall haue the trying and prooving of Gunpowder, bee diligent, attendant, and carefull to doe his duty therein faithfully and truely, as to him belongeth, and not to marke any vessell of powder to be sold or vented, as aforesayd, but such as shalbe good and sufficient for the necessary vse of his Maiesties Subiects, and answerable to the marks: And that he do not take or receiue aboue fiue pence in currant English mony, for any barrell of powder of one hundred weight, & so proportionably, which shall by him be tried, prooued and marked, as aforesayd, as he will answer the contrary at his perill.

And his Maiesties pleasure is, That he, and all other his Highnesse officers in generall, bee vigilant and carefull to see this his Proclamation fully executed, and to discouer all offences, fraudes and deceits, which shall bee committed, put in practise, or attempted contrary to the true meaning of the same. and to giue information from time to time to his Maiesties Attourney generall, as well of the sayd abuses and offences, as of the offenders themselues. And also commanding and authorising his sayd Atturney Generall for the time being, vpon such information giuen vnto him, to prosecute and proceede against the sayd offenders in the Court of Star-chamber: It being his Maiesties expresse pleasure, that seuere punishment shall bee executed vpon all the sayd offenders whatsoeuer.

Giuen at our Palace of Westminster, the sixteenth day of Ianuary, in the twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

The markes of the Proofe-master, whereby the goodnesse of the Powder may bee vnderstood.

If the Barrell bee marked with three Crownes on the staue heades, it is of the best and principall Receipt of fine Powder which is made.

If with two Crownes, it is new, strong, and good Powder for great Ordnance, and may serue for Musket also.

But if you finde the Caske marked with *O.W.* and one Crowne, then it is old powder, new wrought, yet strong, good, and fit for great Ordnance, for one yeeres seruice at the least.

God saue the King.

Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill,
Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.
M. DC. XXII

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